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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

INFORMATION REPORT

REPORT NO. CD NO.

25X1A

DATE DISTR. 18 December 1950

NO. OF PAGES

NO. OF ENCL. (LISTED BELOW) 1*

SUPPLEMENT TO REPORT NO. 25X1A

COUNTRY Czechoslovakia

25X1 SUBJECT Military Developments in Czechoslovakia to 22 October 1950

PLACE ACQUIRED DATE OF INFO.

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25X1 ~~The following indications of preparations for war have been observed in Czechoslovakia since 1949: [Redacted] So]~~

I. Conversion of Czechoslovak Industry to Wartime Production

25X1 1. In 1950, the Czechoslovak armament production reached the 1939-1945 wartime peak. About one-third of the present production of arms goes to the USSR, one-third to satellite countries and other countries such as India, Pakistan, and Denmark, and one-third goes to the Czechoslovak army. Prior to 1948 the allotment to the Czechoslovak army was negligible.

II. Deliveries of Soviet Equipment to the Czechoslovak Army

2. The following Czechoslovak tank units are equipped with Soviet T-34 tanks:

1st Tank Regt Hq Strasice (N50/L34); mobile reserve, possibly 1st Military District CO's reserve; 3 Bns, originally equipped with PZ-4 German medium tanks. Total of 100 tanks.

11th Tank Brig Hq Dedice (P50/N71) under control of the 3rd Motorized Div. Total number of T-34 tanks (76 mm guns), 66.

12th Tank Brig Hq Sternberk (P50/N86). Total number of T-34 tanks (76 mm guns), 66.

14th Tank Brig Hq Pilsen (N50/L04), III Army Corps reserve. Total number of T-34 tanks, 66.

21st Tank Brig Hq Zatec (N51/F10) 5th Motorized Div. Total number of T-34 tanks (85 mm guns), 66.

23rd Tank Brig Hq Milovice (051/G00) 8th Mtrz Div. Total number of T-34 tanks (76 mm guns), 66.

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Skeleton Tank Brig Hq Dedice - Tank Corps
 22nd Tank Brig

3. Six to ten Joseph Stalin III tanks are used in the Tank School at Dedice for training purposes. According to unconfirmed information, 106 JS III tanks have been delivered to Czechoslovakia. These will probably be assigned to the 22nd Tank Brig. About 6 tanks of the T-70 type are assigned to each reconnaissance company of tank brigades.

4. Artillery materiel is distributed as follows:

3rd Arty Regt, Hq Litomerice (N51/F53)	76 mm guns and 122 mm howitzers
253rd AT Arty Regt, Hq Postoloprty (N51/F21)	76 mm AT guns
11th Arty Regt, Hq Dvory near Karlovy Vary	152 mm howitzers
254th AT Arty Bn, Hq Dvory near Karlovy Vary	76 mm AT guns
1st Arty Regt, Hq Prague	One Bn, 122 mm howitzers
2nd Arty Regt, Hq Pilsen	76 mm guns (divisional) and 122 mm howitzers
252nd AT Arty Bn, Hq Horsovsky Tyn (N50/P71)	76 mm AT guns
5th Arty Regt, Ceske Budejovice (049/Q96)	76 mm guns (divisional) and 122 mm howitzers
255th AT Arty Bn, Hq Ctyri Dvory (049/Q96)	76 mm AT guns
260th AT Arty Bn, Hq Klatovy (N50/L00)	76 mm AT guns
6th Arty Regt, Hq Brno	76 mm guns (divisional) and 122 mm howitzers
256th AT Arty Bn, Hq Brno	76 mm AT guns
7th Arty Regt, Hq Olomouc	III/7, 122 mm howitzers
257th AT Arty Bn, Hq Zabreh na Morave (P50/N58)	76 mm AT guns
53rd Arty Regt, Hq Bzenec (P49/S98)	III/53, 122 mm howitzers
9th Arty Regt, Hq Topolcany (P49/T64)	76 mm guns (divisional) and 122 mm howitzers
259th AT Arty Bn, Hq Senica (P49/T05)	76 mm AT guns
11th Arty Regt, Hq Kosice (R49/E34)	76 mm guns (divisional) and 122 howitzers
261st AT Arty Bn, Kosice	76 mm AT guns
109th Arty Regt, Hq Nitra (P49/T62)	120 mm mortars (divisional)
110th Arty Regt, Hq Trencin (P49/T58)	120 mm mortars (divisional)
320th Arty Bn, Hq Tabor (050/M01)	120 mm howitzers

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101st Arty Regt, Hq Louny (N51/F21)	120 mm mortars
103rd Arty Regt, Hq Pribram (N50/I53)	76 mm AT guns
204th AT Arty Regt, Pacov (O50/M22)	76 mm self-propelled guns
105th Arty Regt, Hq Pilsen	120 mm mortars
107th Arty Regt, Hq Opava (P50/029)	120 mm mortars
203rd Arty Regt, Hq Kozmarok (R50/D79)	120 mm mortars

5. Infantry regiments with various heavy infantry weapons are also being equipped with Soviet materiel. The 46th Inf Regt Hq, As (M51/P18), was issued in August 1950:

6 45 mm AT guns
 4 76 mm guns, type 42 (Rgtl)
 9 82 mm mortars (Bn)
 6 120 mm mortars (Rgtl)

25X1 III. Strengthening of the Communist Police System

6. The Ministry of National Security, which actually developed from Department "B" of the Ministry of Interior, was not activated until May 1950, although it was already in the planning stage in early 1949. At that time Kopriva was slated for the position he now holds as Minister of Security. Like its counterpart, the MVD, the Ministry of National Security has been established to maintain the Communist regime in power by use of terror and by liquidation of all possible elements of resistance.

The activation of security troops on a large scale aims at:

- Forming an impassable barrier on the frontier by an improved system of guarding.
- Serving in the capacity of a field gendarmerie in a war emergency and controlling the field army and rear echelons.

The efforts to build up such troops is most evident in the number of schools and training centers for SNB members. According to the latest information, SNB schools are located in the following places:

Bohemia

Trutnov (O51/G71); course duration 3 months
 Nove Mesto n/M (O51/G92)
 Liberec (O51/G16); on 4 August 1949, 300 graduated
 Stribro (N50/P74)
 Ubirok near Horocice (N50/L35)
 Protivin (N50/Q78)
 Tachov (N50/P54)
 Straz near Ralsko (P51/F95)
 Litomerice
 Cesky Krumlov (N49/Q84)
 Kasperske Hory (N50/Q27)
 Karlovy Vary
 Prague

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Moravia

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Napajedla (P50/010)
 Veverska Bityska (P50/N30)
 Javornik na Morave (P51/H54)
 Bruntal (P50/N99)
 Jesenik (Fryvaldov - P51/H72). First class SNB school organized by the Ministry of Interior, decree number BP/3-442/2-22/12-1948 of 22 December 1948. Number of students in first course - 345.
 Opava From 1 April 1949 to September 1949, of a class of 480 students, 70 were purged during the course.
 Krmov (P51/J11)

Slovakia

Pliesovce (Q49/C72)
 Kremnica (Q49/C55). Activated at end of 1949. In January 1950 two battalions of students received primarily political training. Recruited from the 1949 class of inductees, students were carefully screened party members and passed rigorous physical tests.
 Roznava (R49/D74). In 14th Inf Regt barracks. Instructor is Captain Ozanko.
 Slanec (R49/E43)
 Poprad (Q50/D68)

8. A six-months special course for platoon commanders has been organized, consisting of three months of practical training at Dougov (N51/P89) and three months of theoretical schooling, mostly political, at 9600 Unit, Prague-Vrscovice. Assistant platoon commanders have to pass the same course. The grade received in this course is decisive in the maintenance of one's position. During the summer of 1950, nearly all veterans of the SNB-PS who had the rank of junior w/o were replaced by recruits of the security troops, selected party members and graduates of the SNB courses. Only screened platoon commanders who were graduates of the platoon commanders course, their assistants, and sections commanders remained in their posts.

At present, the second stage of reorganization of the SNB-PS units into security troops and the transformation of platoons into companies and companies into battalions is in progress. This process will require several months for its completion. The number of SNB-PS men on the western border as of 20 October 1950 was about 4,000 men. After the reorganization into security troops is completed in the spring of 1951, the number will be between 8,000 and 10,000 men.

10. Territorial SNB posts in the border areas are being closed and in the 5-10 km border belt, only SNB-PS (security troops) will remain. There are indications that even the army units will be withdrawn behind this line. The final phase of the reorganization of the border guard system can be expected to manifest itself in large formations of motorized security troops equipped with heavy and special weapons, armored cars, and possibly even tanks. At the same time, the Ministry of National Security has ordered the increase of special SNB units in the interior similar to the MVD or the SS for the protection of the regime.

IV. Strengthening of Communist Control over the Army

11. When Minister Alexej Cepicka was installed in the Ministry of National Defense on 26 April 1950, the purging of numerous cadres of prewar officers who were either non-Communists or merely Party card-holders and enemies of the Communist regime was finally achieved. Svoboda, who had strongly opposed this purge was the first to be ousted. The Party now has a free hand in assigning reliable Party members to the highest posts, regardless of the appointee's education and skill. Radical purges were also conducted prior to the arrival of Soviet "advisor", for such men as Klapalek or General Simon Dragac would not have tolerated a Soviet "instructor".

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12. Communist influence is no less felt in the ranks of the enlisted men. 25X1A
 Inductees of October 1950 are to be deprived of off-duty passes, a measure calculated to isolate the men from the civilian population and expose them to permanent Communist indoctrination. To make their restriction to barracks somewhat more tolerable, libraries, special service clubs, and entertainments are organized. Local girls attending entertainment for soldiers are selected by the Party secretariats.

V. Arrival of Soviet Officers to Czechoslovakia

13. Following the evacuation of Soviet troops from Czechoslovakia and during the period 1945-1948, a small group of Soviet officers (about 25 in all) were left in Czechoslovakia. They were assigned to schools and training centers as advisors in the pedagogical methods of the Soviet army and of Soviet army regulations, which had been unofficially applied by the Czechoslovak army since 1945, and from which Czechoslovak army regulations were being compiled. The officers also acted as observers in Czechoslovak military schools. They were assigned as follows:

War College	2 senior officers
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Military Academy, Hranice (P50/025)	4 officers (Col Vorobjev, Lt Col Klinenko and 2 junior officers)
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Infantry School, Milovice	2 officers
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Artillery School, Olomouc	4 officers
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Tank School, Dedice	2 officers
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Air Academy, Hradec Kralove (051/071)	1 officer
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Signal School, Nove Mesto n/Vahom (P49/T36)	Maj Mendeljev
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Engineer School, Litomerice	Lt Col Pisanjevskij
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Military Attaché, Prague	Permanent staff of about 6 officers
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MNO - Liaison Section	1 - 2 officers
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14. [The MVD had an intelligence network spread throughout Czechoslovakia totaling about 140 persons. Camouflaged as commercial missions or remnants of partisan commands, they had their cells of informants chiefly among the personnel of Party secretariats.]

15. In 1947 some Soviet air force officers arrived in Czechoslovakia with the delivery of 35 Pe-2 aircraft to become instructors in the 6th Air Force Division. These officers visited other air force units as well and participated in maneuvers in army training camps whenever the air force took part.

16. In 1949 a party of some 12 officers of the Soviet Tank Corps arrived at the Tank School, Dedice, and at the General Staff Tank Units Command. Their arrival was in connection with the first deliveries of T-34 and JS III tanks. In December 1949, one Red army colonel was attached to G-2 of the General Staff.

17. [When Cepicka took over the MNO, he immediately dismissed the minister's cabinet and replaced the members with his own staff, more or less selected by the Party Central Committee. At the same time that Cepicka was installed and General Prochazka was assigned to the General Staff, 18 high-ranking Soviet advisors were attached to General Staff sections and individual army commands. They are directly subordinated to the Soviet Military Attaché, Colonel General N. I. Gusev, who acts as advisor to the Chief of General Staff. Thus, the Soviets have achieved control of the Czechoslovak General Staff.]

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18. In July 1950, large parties of Soviet instructors arrived in Prague and Brno. They were assigned to Military District headquarters and to other formation headquarters. At the same time groups of Soviet pilots flew Soviet Yak aircraft to Slovakiian airfields in Bratislava, Piestany, Tri Duby, to Moravian airfields in Brno and Byskov, and to Prague-Kbely and the airfield at Zatec. The arrival of Soviet air formations was camouflaged by the Czechoslovak radio as "assistance in the fight against potato bugs".

19. Also in the same period, the news was spread that 50,000 farmers from Czechoslovakia were to be sent to USSR for schooling. This news was intended to divert attention from the arrival of Soviet troops, but was apparently unsuccessful.

20. Around 20 August 1950, two transports of Red Army officers from Austria totaling 150 men headed by General Yzukovic arrived in Ceske Budejovice. About 30 of the officers remained with the 1st Inf Div in Ceske Budejovice. The rest went to the 2nd Army Corps, Hq Pisek (N50/Q69), the 3rd Army Corps, Hq Pilsen, the 14th Inf Div, Hq Pisek, 4th Div, Hq Susice (N50/Q28), and the 11th Div, Hq Pilsen. The presence of General Yzukovic (possibly a cover name) and of numerous officers with the 1st Inf Div is of interest for the following reasons:

- a. Yzukovic and his party arrived from Austria. This could be explained as a Soviet effort to coordinate Czechoslovak units stationed in southern Bohemia with Soviet troops in Austria.
- b. The Commanding General of the 1st Inf Div is General Hanus, former chief of G-2 General Staff. Yzukovic's presence with a division commanded by Hanus could indicate the cooperation in the intelligence field of Czechoslovak and Soviet organs oriented toward the US Zone of Austria.

21. The presence of a Soviet tank specialist with the 13th Inf Div at Karlovy Vary seems to indicate prospective motorization of that unit. On 28 August, a Red Tank Corps colonel participated in a review of the 46th Inf Regt at As accompanied by the 13th Div CO, Colonel Rytir, GSC. The following day another Soviet colonel attended the celebration by the 4th Mountain Div at Susice of the Slovakian National Insurrection anniversary, accompanied by Commanding General Bohuslav Lomsky.

22. On 8 September 1950, 40 Soviet officers landed at Ruzyno airfield and were welcomed by Cepicka, Zapotocny, and an honor company of the 80th Inf Bn from Motol (N51/L78). According to reliable information, the total number of Soviet army officers in Czechoslovakia at the present time is about 300. They are attached to General Staff, all formations commands, military schools, and air force units. By the end of 1950 a Soviet officer will be attached to each regimental and independent battalion headquarters.

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VI. Construction and Improvement of Rail, Highway, and Air Communications Systems

23. Of prime importance is the construction of a double-track railroad from Zilina (Q50/092)-Kosice (R49/E34)-Sanok (unlocated) to Cop and the improvement of the railroad network in eastern Slovakia in general.

24. Bridges in southern Moravia have been reinforced to carry the maximum permissible loads. Two 100-ton reinforced concrete bridges were completed at Jaroslavice east of Znojmo in May 1950. At the same time, the construction of a reinforced concrete bridge near the customs house at Jaroslavice on the Austrian highway was hastily begun. In October reinforcement of the Vltava bridges between Volary (N49/Q55) and Horni Dvoriste (O49/Q92) was started by Army engineer and labor units. This reinforcement of bridges on the Vltava in southern Bohemia is of importance to traffic from southern Bohemia to the US Zone of Austria and to Germany on the Strakonice-Ceske Krumlov-Lienz-Passau line.

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25. In May 1950 the MNO placed an order in Switzerland for snow plows. Fifteen of these machines of the type used by the Swiss and Swedish armies are already in use on the Czechoslovak state highways. This type is supposedly very good for mountainous terrain and it seems probable that the Czechoslovak army intends to use them in the Sumava mountains.

VII. Changes in the Organization and Location of the Czechoslovak Army

26. From February 1950 no basic changes in the location of the Czech army influencing the western border system have taken place. The transfer of the 60th Inf Regiment from Sokolov to As at the end of January 1950 was dictated by local requirements of the 13th Inf Div which needed reinforcements for weak units of the SNB-P3 and which also needed labor for building fortifications and obstacles in the As-Hazlov area. Of local importance was the transfer of the 10th Arty Regt from Prachatic to Klatovy in February 1950. The 2nd Bn of the 10th Arty Regt remained in Prachatic.

27. In May 1950 the 2nd Bn of the 35th Inf Regt was transferred from Klatovy to Domazlice, and in April 1950 the Replacement Co of the 23rd Inf Regt from Zvolen arrived in Prichovice near Nyrsko. On 15 March 1950 the Military Academy for paratroopers (second course) was transferred to Zilina. The year 1950 has been marked by a wide scale recruitment among officers and enlisted men of all units for parachutists training. In spite of propaganda via the press, the official MNO gazette, Czech Youth Association, and visits by officers of the Paratroopers Training Center to various units, there were no signs of the enlistment drive ending, since the deadline has been extended several times.

28. While no major changes in the situation have been recorded during summer maneuvers (May - August), in September 1950 a labor company of the 46th Inf Regt from Benesov was identified at Horazdovice (N50/Q39) engaged in reconditioning a cloister which is to house a regiment. One Soviet officer was seen inspecting the work. On 1 October the 1st Inf Regt from Ceske Budejovice was transferred to Cesky Krumlov. During September, a community farm at Volary consisting of eight inns and several houses was requisitioned and the occupants had to make the buildings available within 24 hours. This also occurred in adjacent villages. On 1 October, about 2,000 recruits arrived in Volary along with officers and their families. It is believed that this is either the 1st Inf Regt or the 4th Inf Regt. Prior to this date two companies of the 66th Mountain Inf Regt were stationed at Volary. At the same time, about 40 men of an advanced party of the 1st Inf Regt (or 22nd Inf Regt) (sic) secured billets at Horni Planá (N49/Q63).

29. By the beginning of October the 1st Bn of the 29th Inf Regt from Jindrichuv Hradec (050/R28) was transferred to Ceske Velonice (049/R24). In October soldiers of the 1949 classes were identified in the Volary vicinity building a large underground switchboard (sic). The construction site is guarded by four men.

30. In October the headquarters of the 5th Inf Regt was identified at Jindrichuv Hradec. The 5th Inf Regt used to be stationed at Kladno and formed part of the 5th Mtrz Div, Prague.

31. Perhaps the most outstanding change to take place in the beginning of October 1950 was the transfer of the 46th Inf Regt from As (presumably to the Army Training Center, Kynzvart, and the preparations for motorizing this regiment and the 33rd Inf Regt, Cheb (N51/P37). From 5 October, records were turned in to regimental headquarters and materiel was packed and transported to the railway station. On 10 October, Lt. Rysavy,

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Assistant Education Officer, called a meeting and stated that in order to prevent rumors, the 46th Inf Regt would be marched to its new destination on the nights of 11 and 12 October. Older class men, particularly mortar gun crews and those charged with handling the horses were to remain in As until 14 October to turn over equipment, etc. This regiment had been issued Soviet guns and mortars in August 1950 and until recently that equipment had been horsedrawn. On 1 October heavy artillery and mortar companies were issued trailing hooks, an indication that these units will be motorized.

VIII. General Information

32. Army orders placed with the textile industry for the year 1950 for uniforms and various material were so large that they could not be filled because of a shortage of raw materials. The jute industry received millions (sic) worth of orders for mattress covers and sacks. These orders can be filled only if ersatz material, such as paper, is used. The hemp industry received the following orders:

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 5,000,000 gas mask holders
 2,000,000 parachute stripes (sic)
 16,000 camouflage nets, 18 m x 18 m
 14,000 camouflage nets, 14 m x 14 m

Orders for quartermaster equipment such as cutlery, kettles, trays, etc., have caused a shortage of these items on the home market.

IX. Summary

The speeding up of war preparations in Czechoslovakia and the entire Eastern Bloc is evident. Propaganda campaigns are being waged in schools, in the army, and by all means available to the state. More of a military than a political nature are the Russian language classes which are being offered. As far as the strategic mission of the Czechoslovak army is concerned, it seems that it is being regrouped in such a manner that units stationed in southern Bohemia and Moravia could take part in the Soviet maneuvers from Austria, while formations stationed in the Ohre river valley (1st Army Corps, 12th and 13th Divs) could join operations of Soviet troops in Saxony. The 3rd Army Corps, Pilsen, (4th and 11th Divs) is an operational group for maintaining liaison between both the aforementioned groups. The equipping of the Czech army with Soviet equipment is far from being completed; several months will still be necessary before the undertaking is finished.

Attachment: Location of the Czechoslovak Army in the West Border Territory.

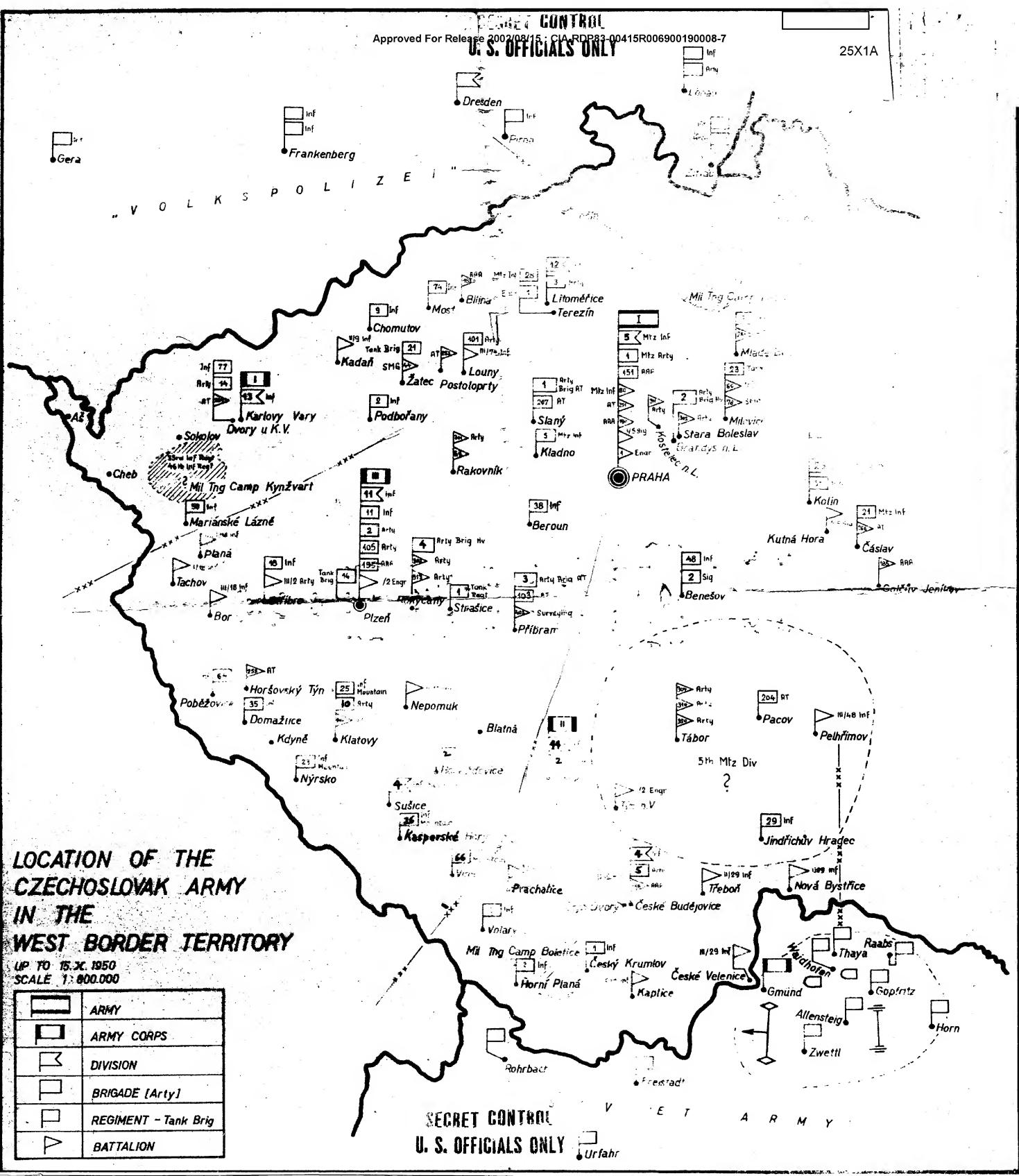
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